

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/756,697

Applicant(s)

GRESS ET AL.

Examiner

Ramy M. Osman

Art Unit

2157

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed May 9, 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-13,15,22,24-30,32-37,39-49,51-58,60-70 and 72-78.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

ARNO ETIENNE

PTO-892 PATENT EXAMINER
BIOLOGY CENTER 2100

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

1. This action is responsive to amendment filed on May 9, 2007, where Applicant traversed the restriction requirement and provisionally elected Group I. Claims 1,3-13,15,22,24-30,32-37,39-49,51-58,60-70,72-78 are pending.

Drawings

2. The replacement drawings filed on 5/9/2007 are acknowledged and are acceptable.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments, filed 5/9/2007, with respect to the restriction requirement of claims 1,3-13,15,22,24-30,32-37,39-49,51-58,60-70,72-78 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The restriction requirement of 4/10/2007 has been withdrawn.
4. Furthermore, Applicant's arguments, filed 10/4/2006, with respect to the art rejections of claims 1,3-13,15,22,24-30,32-37,39-49,51-58,60-70,72-78 have been fully considered and are also persuasive. Therefore, the rejections are withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 1,3-13,15,22,24-30,32-37,39-49,51-58,60-70,72-78 are allowed.
6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Applicants invention of a unified communication system configured for receiving, storing, supplying messages to subscribers utilizing encryption, is found to be patentable. Prior art references found to be

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pertinent to Applicants disclosure (and cited in previous PTO Forms 892), either only teach minor aspects of the invention or only teach the general environment of the invention. The prior art, neither singly or in combination, do not teach the claim limitations.

The particular novel feature of the invention (as mentioned in the claims) is how the unified communication system receives an unencrypted message from a user who is at a requesting device, the unified system sending a first prompt to the user for the user to select encryption of the message, sending a second prompt to the user for the user to input an encryption key, encrypting the received unencrypted message by using the encryption key that was input by the user, wherein the unified system employs a resource for executing the encryption and this resource is distinct from the requesting device, and then the unified system outputting the final encrypted message to a destination based on user profile attributes for the destination.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

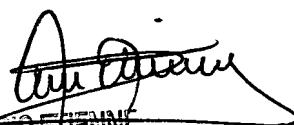
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ramy M. Osman whose telephone number is (571) 272-4008. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-5.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on (571) 272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

RMO
September 15, 2007


ARIO ETIENNE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100